

To place this case in a condition for allowance, Applicants have submitted a supplemental declaration under 37 CFR 1.175(b)(1), a copy of which is attached to this response. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Claims 2, 6, 16, 20, 30, 34, and 49-69 are in a condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 251

The Examiner rejected Claims 2, 6, 16, 20, 30, 34 and 49-69 as being based upon a defective declaration under 35 U.S.C. 251. The Examiner requested a supplemental declaration be submitted by Applicants under 37 CFR 1.175(b)(1) to overcome this rejection.

Applicants have submitted a supplemental declaration under 37 CFR 1.175(b)(1), a copy of which is attached to this response. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the Examiner reconsider his rejection and allow Claims 2, 6, 16, 20, 30, 34, and 49-69.

Renumbering Rejection

Examiner also rejected Claims 2, 6, 16, 20, 30 and 34 for being numbered in an improper form. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are numbered in proper form and need not be cancelled and resubmitted as suggested by the Examiner in the Official Action. This is because Claims 2, 6, 16, 20, 30 and 34 were simply amended, and are not newly added Claims. Applicants attorney and the Examiner conducted a phone interview during which the Examiner agreed that Claims 2, 6, 16, 20, 30 and 34 are properly numbered. As a result, the

Examiner retracted this rejection. Claims 2, 6, 16, 20, 30 and 34 are therefore in allowable form.

As requested by the Examiner, Applicants have attached to this response a copy of page 3 of the Official Action mailed November 5, 1998.

As required under 37 CFR 1.178, the Original Letters Patent will be sent to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office under separate cover.

CONCLUSION

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's efforts to review this case. Applicants have now placed this case in condition for allowance as suggested by the Examiner and respectfully request full allowance of Claims 2, 6, 16, 20, 30, 34 and 49-69.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0456 of Gray Cary Ware & Freidenrich, LLP.

Respectfully submitted,
GRAY CARY WARE ▲ FREIDENRICH LLP
Attorneys for Applicants



Armando Pastrana, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,997

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100 Congress Avenue
Suite 1440
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 457-7080
(512) 457-7070 (facsimile)